

The News is the Official Paper of the Board of Public Instruction of DeSoto County, also Publishes All the County Commissioners Reports and Proceedings

## IN FEAR OF DEATH GUTIERREZ QUILTS GARZA IS CHIEF

**MEXICO CITY UNDER MARTIAL LAW. VILLA HURRYING THERE WITH ARMY. MEXICAN LEADERS IN OPEN RUPTURE. MORE BLOODSHED PROBABLE.**

Washington, Jan. 18.—American Consul Sullivan today reports that Mexico City is under martial law, and the population is almost panic stricken. The military authorities are quelling the riots, have executed several of the leaders, and made wholesale arrests. The convention, after a stormy session, deposed Gutierrez, naming General Roque Garza chief executive. Gutierrez, with three members of the cabinet and five thousand troops, fled yesterday. His destination is unascertained.

Mexico City, Jan. 18.—General Roque Gonzalez Garza has been named provisional president of Mexico by the convention in session here, over which he has presided. The former provisional president, General Follado Gutierrez, together with Generals Blanco, Robles and Jose Vasconcellos, left Mexico City yesterday morning at 4 o'clock for Pachuco.

Martial law has been declared by General Garza, and the city is being patrolled by mounted police.

In electing Garza, the convention declared itself to be supreme, and until a new president is elected, has assumed all the legislative, executive and judicial powers.

### Fearing Assassination.

El Paso, Texas, Jan. 18.—General Gutierrez fled from Mexico City to escape assassination at the hands of Zapata adherents, according to reports received here last night. General Villa, with all the troops at his immediate disposal, is reported as hurrying to the capital from Aguas Calientes. General Angeles, who recently occupied Monterey, was reported also to be hastening to Mexico City.

A report was circulated in Juarez last night that Villa and Angeles had decided to oppose the Zapata faction, which is said to have assumed a belligerent attitude toward the Villa and Carranza forces.

It was also reported that General Obregon, with the main Carranza army, was moving toward Mexico City, after taking Puebla.

General Zapata, it was said, had entrenched himself in his old stronghold at Cuernavaca.

### Is Friend of Villa.

Washington, Jan. 18.—General Garza, elected yesterday as provisional president, is one of Villa's chief aides. Details last night were lacking, but the general belief was that he had been chosen temporarily to meet an emergency caused by the sudden departure of General Gutierrez from Mexico City. It was thought that he would exercise executive power until a complete agreement is secured on a president to fill the unexpired term of President Diaz, which would end on December 1 of this year.

The reason for General Gutierrez' departure is unknown here, but it is thought he refused to be continued under the rules provided by the Villa-Zapata factions. These provided that two-thirds of the convention could remove the provisional president, that he could take no action of importance without the consent of his cabinet, and that the convention must be consulted on all important questions. A copy of the statement issued by Garza upon taking control of affairs reached the state department yesterday. He announced that Gutierrez had issued orders for most of the government forces to leave the capital, and as this would leave the city without authorities, he, as chairman of the convention, had assumed chief command. It is believed that Garza then called an extraordinary session, which ratified his assumption of power.

### Garza Well Known.

Garza is about 36 years old, and is a man of culture. He is a graduate of the law school in Mexico City, and has been practicing law many years. The provisional president is a well known man throughout the republic, and is believed to have the confidence of many of all factions involved. He was floor leader in the last senate. His dramatic speech in favor of the plan of Ayala led to the coalition between the Zapata and Villa forces.

Secretary Bryan made no comment on the change in executives in Mexico City. Reports to the department said the city was quiet.

### Oil Wells Safe.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Foreign-owned oil companies around Tampico, about which both Secretary Bryan and the British ambassador here made representations to General Carranza, now are said to be in no danger of confiscation.

Eliseo Arredondo, Carranza representative here, declares confiscation never was contemplated, and the oil wells are being operated without molestation.

This explanation of the recent Carranza decree was sent to Secretary Bryan by Major Arredondo.

### Will Not Confiscate.

"I desire to inform your excellency that no confiscation is intended among the foreign oil properties, and the legislation that has been enacted refers to the properties which were being worked without authority from this government; that oil wells under production will be allowed to work without molestation; that companies taking advantage of our difficulty were in all directions constructing pipe lines, tanks, wharves, etc., and even attempting to sink new wells without the permission of the government."

"I desire to invite your excellency's attention to the fact that the above permission has been confined with no other order suspending shipments by two or three companies who declined to pay taxes due, and whose shipments amounted to something like \$500,000 per month. But this matter is now on its way to a satisfactory adjustment, inasmuch as some of the companies have begun to pay the above mentioned tax."

### Naco is Evacuated.

Naco, Jan. 18. Naco, Sonora, which was besieged for three months by Governor Maytorena's forces, was evacuated yesterday by the Carranza troops under General Calles.

A strong column of 13,000 troops started last night for Agua Prieta. The injured, women, children, stores and household goods of the garrison were loaded on cars and departed in bond through the United States to the same point. The arrival of this force at Agua Prieta will fulfill the preliminaries of the border peace pact made with the two Mexican factions by Brigadier General Hugh L. Scott, United States chief of staff.

Today Naco is a shot torn ruin, peopled only by the dead of Calles' army, buried in sheltered side streets. As Calles troops moved out of town a regiment of United States troops swung into the saddle and kept abreast of the Mexicans, to see them safely to Agua Prieta. One hundred children in arms were brought across the border with the women and wounded.

Other Troops Leave.

Laredo, Texas, Jan. 18.—It was said last night that the Mexican troops at Nuevo Laredo, across from this town, would be removed today southward, so as to prevent possibility of casualties from fighting on the Mexican side of the border.

### MAY RELEASE PRIZE SHIPS ON BOND.

British May Make That Concession to Relieve Traffic.

Washington, Jan. 16.—Release on bond of ships detained in British prize courts will be permitted by the British government if the judge of the court is willing, according to a statement issued yesterday by the British embassy.

The embassy statement says: "While they cannot give a pledge that all ships now in prize courts will be released on bail being offered, because the decision must rest with the judge, his majesty's government, in order to relieve a shortage of tonnage, is anxious to withdraw ships as little as possible from the carrying trade and will therefore not oppose release on bail of ships now in prize courts if bail is offered."

"Only seven neutral vessels are at present in prize court, and five ships are detained in the United Kingdom in addition at this moment for examination as to character and to destination of her cargo; one of these will probably be released almost immediately, and no one of them is under the American flag."

### ONEIDA'S CREW PRAISED BY DANIELS FOR BRAVERY.

Washington, Jan. 16.—The crew of the United States steamship Oneida were yesterday commended by Secretary of the Navy Daniels for heroic work in transferring from the passenger steamer Pilot Boy, of the Beaufort and Savannah Line, on December 13th last, forty-seven passengers who became panic stricken when their boat was disabled by an accident to her machinery. A heavy sea was running and a gale blowing at the time. The passengers were so excited, according to the department, that some were endeavoring to jump overboard. They were restrained, however, by the enlisted men of the navy.

### PRODUCERS FORM ASSOCIATION.

Kissimmee People to Organize With Capital Stock of \$250,000.

Kissimmee, Jan. 15.—The Florida Producers' Co-operative Association is being promoted and soon promises to be a reality. Pledges of stock in the company have been made and a temporary board of directors has been chosen, with Andre Van Der Meersch as president.

Many prominent men, the Osceola county fruit and truck growers, and all the local farmers and producers are backing the organization with the idea that it will mean a state wide movement and the forming of a large company that will not only market stuff produced but that will build warehouses, canning factories and tend to put the business of Florida growers and producers on a co-operative system.

The company will have a capital stock of \$250,000 and as soon as the necessary stock is sold and a permanent board organized, it will be incorporated.

A report of the county's finances has been made and will soon be sent to the state comptroller.

## BLOODIEST OF THE BATTLES IN POLAND NOW RAGING IN THE VICINITY OF MLAWA

**DURING THE FOUR DAYS' ENGAGEMENT, TOWNS HAVE BEEN PRACTICALLY DESTROYED. DESTROYED. MLAWA CHANGED HANDS THREE TIMES SUNDAY, BUT FINALLY FOUND THE RUSSIANS IN CONTROL, THE GERMANS BEING THROWN BACK TOWARD THE BORDER.**

### GERMANS ARE SUCCESSFUL

**IN TWO IMPORTANT TOWNS IN RUSSIAN POLAND, WHERE THE RUSSIANS ARE SAID TO BE RETREATING AT RANDOM. WEATHER VERY UNFAVORABLE.**

Petrograd, Jan. 19.—The bloodiest fighting yet seen in Poland is raging in the vicinity of Mlawa for the last four days. Town is practically destroyed. It changed hands three times Sunday and is now held by the Russians. The Germans have been thrown back toward the border. The Russians withdrew from Kielce before the heavily reinforced Germans. The Russians are advancing toward Thorn and Soldau, may compel the Germans to abandon their drive toward Ivangorod. At the south the Turks are hard pressed by the Russians.

Berlin, Jan. 19.—A News report states that Kielce and Opoczno, important towns in Russian Poland, are captured by the Germans. The Russians retreated to Radom. The Germans are advancing toward Skurysko, a railroad junction.

A triple repulse of the Russian forces in southern Poland is officially reported. Weather is unfavorable. Fighting at the west shows no important changes.

### SHERIFF SAYS BANKER CONFESSES TO ROBBERY.

Augusta, Ga., Jan. 15.—Sheriff Sam Story, of Burke county, made the statement here yesterday that Thomas F. Buxton, former cashier of the First National Bank of Waynesboro, confessed to the sheriff that he was the masked man who held up Assistant Cashier Warren and attempted to rob the bank.

Sheriff Story said: "Buxton broke down entirely yesterday morning and told me 'I'm guilty and am going to plead guilty at my trial.' He was completely unnerfed when he made his confession."

Sheriff Story said Preston Buxton, a brother of J. T. Meers, visited the prison to find out what could be done in the matter of arranging bond. Buxton told them that he did not want anything done, and advised his visitors, who are his bondsmen in the sum of \$7,000 in the former case of embezzlement from the same bank, that it would be best for them to come to Augusta and be relieved on that bond. It subsequently developed that he had told them, before admitting to the sheriff, that he was guilty of trying to rob the bank.

Sheriff Story says, "Buxton told me he did not go to the bank Tuesday to rob it of money, but to get the papers which figured in the former case, which he knew the bank had in its vault."

The sheriff says he has evidence that Buxton told Meers, one of his bondsmen, that he need not worry, as he would have plenty of money soon.

### NEXT LABOR CONVENTION GOES TO TAMPA.

Sanford, Jan. 15.—Tampa gets the next convention of the State Federation of Labor, in session in this city for the last two days. The vote was taken yesterday morning, and the warm expressions from the Tampa Board of Trade, the mayor and from Tampa labor unions swung the tables in favor of that city as the next meeting place.

A Tampa man, C. N. Bardin, delegate from the Typographical Union, was also honored as one of the vice-presidents of the federation. The election of officers resulted as follows:

President, C. E. Sheppard, Miami. Secretary, W. H. Harbridge, Jacksonville.

Vice Presidents, C. L. Willoughby, Lakeland; J. H. Mackey, Jacksonville; L. E. Dickinson, Palm Beach; C. N. Bardin, Tampa; J. McCalley, Sanford. Delegate to A. F. of L., F. J. O'Hara, Palm Beach.

The convention passed resolutions favoring certain changes in the Bryan primary law.

### BRYAN'S NAME IN DOMINICAN ROW.

Said to Have Aided American Financiers Trying to Exploit Dominican Republic.

New York, Jan. 16.—Roger L. Farnham, of the National City Bank of New York, which handled a \$1,500,000 loan to the Dominican republic, testified at the inquiry to determine the fitness of James M. Sullivan to hold his position as American minister to the republic.

The National City Bank, it was testified, was represented in negotiating the loan by Santiago Michelena, a Santo Domingo banker, whose institution was depository of the customs funds of the republic until they were transferred at the instance of Sullivan, it was alleged, to the Banco Nacional.

Michelena was not in favor of Secretary Bryan, it was testified, because Mr. Bryan "was obsessed with the idea that he represented the money trust."

Farnham said the National City Bank had no interest in Santo Domingo other than lending \$1,500,000 to the government two years ago. That loan, by arrangements with the United States, was being paid off \$30,000 a month out of customs receipts. Farnham said he had no relations with Sullivan.

Secretary Knox approved the loan, the witness said. Knox cabled the bank proposal to the then American minister, who presented it to the Dominican government. A copy went to Michelena. The minister and Michelena reported that the government favored their proposition in preference to those of other bankers.

Farnham said he had met Walker W. Vick, instigator of the present investigation, shortly after Vick had been appointed receiver general. Vick had not in any way made representations to him, either for or against the Banco Nacional, or any other institution, he said. He had sought an interview with Vick, he continued, in connection with the question of the depository of the customs receipts out of which the bank's notes were being paid.

"We wanted to know where the funds were going," continued the witness.

Senator-elect Phelan, of California, in testifying, stated that changes were made in this government's representation in San Domingo on representations made by moneyed interests seeking to obtain control of the finances of the Dominican republic.

Secretary of State Bryan was accused of lending an ear in the approach of Sullivan by the Samuel Jarvis, cashier of financiers who controlled the Banco Nacional at Santo Domingo. This institution was alleged to have been an institution without standing on the island, and which sought the deposits of the customs department superintended by the United States and other government funds.

### TAX COLLECTOR SHORT \$22,000 AND IS MISSING.

Key West, Jan. 19.—T. A. Sweeting, state and county tax collector, is alleged to have been found short in his accounts to the amount of approximately \$22,000. Mr. Sweeting has been absent from his office for over ten days, and no one knowing anything of his whereabouts, the county commissioners called a special meeting and wired Governor Trammell to send an auditor here to check up his books.

Assistant State Auditor R. A. Gray arrived here the early part of the week and immediately began an investigation of the office. After a careful auditing of the books and stub receipts, he reported to the commissioners that he found the collector delinquent to the county in the sum of \$11,000, and approximately the same amount to the state.

Upon receipt of this report Commissioner W. R. Porter instructed the clerk to communicate with the prosecuting attorney and have him file information against the delinquent official. He county and state are now protected against loss, as the collector was under bond of \$30,000.

### CHICAGO GRAPEFRUIT IN BETTED DEMAND.

Chicago, Jan. 19.—There was a satisfactory movement of oranges last week at the low prices lately prevailing, which have evidently begun to stimulate consumption. Offerings were liberal of California navels, and the quality was good, although a good deal of the fruit showed some size. Florida oranges remained in rather limited supply, and were quoted at \$1.50 to \$2.50 per box in car lots. Navels were worth \$1.75 to \$2.25.

Demand was somewhat improved on Florida grapefruit, and there was a satisfactory movement at the reasonable prices asked. Receipts were ample and the quality remained good, outside of some frozen stock, which arrived in poor condition. Car lots were quoted at \$1.25 to \$2.25 per box. No change was noticeable in the market on California lemons, which remained steady at \$2.25 to \$2.99 per box.

### NATAL GRASS AND DESOTO COUNTY LANDS.

South Bend, Ind., Jan. 2, 1915.—(To the Florida Grower)—Can you tell me through the Grower if the land around Arcadia, in DeSoto county, Florida, is suitable for growing natal grass? Will frosts damage it at any stage of its growth? Why is it that vegetables do not do as well around Arcadia as around Wauchula—that is, commercially? Also, can you tell us about the prairie land in DeSoto county called LaBelle Park. Fishing Creek south to the Caloosahatchee river, and from Bigler east to Lake, and especially around what is called Hall City? We hear much of it is extremely only, a glass sand nature in spots, with no subsoil that will hold fertilizer. We appreciate very much the efforts of the Grower to give the real facts concerning Florida. We file every issue carefully. We consider it equal to a text book of instructions of useful information. If every one intending to go to Florida for a home could but know of the Grower and read its pages of advice, it would save many a disappointment. It is the greatest journal we know of. Yours truly, S. H. S.

Note: Some of the lands around Arcadia would undoubtedly be suited to the growing of Natal grass, but most of them would be better for Rhodes grass, as this grass does better on a damper, heavier soil; that is, Natal grass does better on higher, drier land than Rhodes. This is the opinion of the grass experts of the department of agriculture. Frost does not affect it to any extent.

We do not know that vegetables do so much better around Wauchula than at Arcadia; the acreage at the latter place and vicinity being more devoted to citrus culture. The lands along the Peace river and to the westward of Arcadia being similar to that at Wauchula, we see no reason why vegetables should not do as well.

Regarding the prairie lands around Arcadia, we have always held that they were not, as a rule, suitable to the cultivation of citrus fruits. There may be small tracts on the prairie, such as cabbage palmetto hammocks or shell hammocks, which would be suitable for such planting or some pine tracts that would do, but these acreages are small and generally isolated.

We do not find much to favor in Hall City. We have repeatedly cautioned our readers regarding the matter. We have seen the lands around Hall City, and do not consider them, as a whole, suitable to citrus culture. There are some bayheads and cabbage hammocks scattered throughout the tract, and some land along the river edge (liable to overflow) that will grow citrus fruit. These same lands are suitable to truck crops, and probably some small spots in the prairie, but the trouble with these prairie lands, being underlaid with hardpan, is that they are too wet in the rainy season, drowning out the crops, and in the dry season holding no moisture for the same reasons, the crops burn up. Dynamiting might do in some places, but the soil under the hard pan is generally white sand, full of water, and any fertilizer would leach through when the retaining hard pan was dynamited, and with citrus trees the tap roots would rot. Where there is sufficient humus in the soil and the hard pan was deep enough from the surface, truck could be raised. We advise all to investigate with great care before they purchase. We know nothing about the LaBelle tract other than that there are some very good lands near LaBelle.—The Florida Grower.

Key West, Jan. 19.—T. A. Sweeting, state and county tax collector, is alleged to have been found short in his accounts to the amount of approximately \$22,000. Mr. Sweeting has been absent from his office for over ten days, and no one knowing anything of his whereabouts, the county commissioners called a special meeting and wired Governor Trammell to send an auditor here to check up his books.

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### THIRTY MILE WIND IS TAMPA'S SHARE OF STORM.

Tampa, Jan. 19.—A thirty mile wind and .29 inch of rain was Tampa's share of the storm which passed across Georgia yesterday, clearing the way for a high wind which is scattering colder weather as it advances. "Much colder" is the way the forecast of the weather bureau for yesterday reads.

The high wind spread itself over the city at 3:16 yesterday afternoon, and the major portion of the rain was dispersed about the same time; .23 inch fell in fifteen minutes, and of this, .14 inches fell in five minutes. The wind had been blowing up to 24 miles all the morning and sudden showers were frequent.

Heavy rains have been reported from cities in the direct path of the storm. Thomasville reported 4.44 inches yesterday morning, and it was still raining. Pensacola had 1.60 inches; Charleston 1.90 yesterday and 1.58 last night. Hatteras reported .92 inches last night; Washington .70 inches; New York 1.16 inches, and Boston 1.40 inches.

### THAW TO BE IN NEW YORK PRISON BY END OF WEEK.

New York, Jan. 19.—The first move to bring Harry K. Thaw back to this state in extradition papers, as directed by the United States supreme court, will be taken today when William T. Jerome will apply to the court for a certified copy of the decision directing that Thaw be delivered to the New York authorities by New Hampshire. Immediately after receiving the order, according to announcement, Mr. Jerome and Sheriff Hornbeck, of Dutchess county, will go to Manchester to take Thaw into custody.

The time limit of thirty days allowed by the supreme court for the return of Thaw to New York state expires today, and unless legal obstacles are placed in the way by Thaw's attorneys, it is expected that Mr. Jerome and Sheriff Hornbeck will bring Thaw back to New York state some time this week.

## SHIP BILL UP FOR CONSIDERATION BY DEMOCRATS

**DISCUSS AMENDMENTS TO REDUCE REPUBLICAN OPPOSITION. SENATOR SMITH SUGGESTS SHIPPING AFTER FEDERAL PURCHASE.**

Washington, Jan. 19.—Amendments to the government ship purchase bill were discussed last night at a caucus of senate democrats, with a view to perfecting the measure so as to reduce opposition from republican sources. No final action was taken. All amendments were referred to the commerce committee, which will report to another caucus today.

An amendment suggested by Senator Hoke Smith, of Georgia, provided that the government after purchase or lease of ocean going ships first should offer them to American private individuals or corporations at terms that would equal at least 4 per cent. on the investment. This is designed to meet objections to the formation of a government controlled company as originally provided for in the bill.

The organization and incorporation of the proposed organization to operate the ships was also referred back.

Senator Bankhead proposed a resolution to change the manner of organization of the boards to control operations. His amendment would establish in the department of commerce a merchant shipping bureau, its officers consisting of the secretary of commerce as chairman, the secretary of war, the postmaster general, and four expert civilians.

At the outset of the caucus Senator Robinson, of Arkansas, offered an amendment which was adopted unanimously, to provide for rural credits legislation at an early date. Opinion on the subject was divided, but most of the senators said later that there seemed to be no chance of getting action on a rural credits bill at this session. The resolution as adopted read:

"Resolved, That the committee on banking and currency of the senate is requested to report a bill providing for a system of rural credits, and that it is the sense of the caucus that the said bill be considered by the senate at the earliest practicable date."

Democratic senators explained that "the earliest practicable date" might mean at this session, if time were found; at an extra session, if one be found to be imperative, after March; or at the beginning of the next congress next December. The subject was essential, it was said in the resolution, in view of the fact that the democratic party has been committed to rural credit legislation since the Baltimore convention.

### PLUNGED FROM GREAT HEIGHT TO HIS DEATH.

New York, Jan. 16.—John Solater, aged 26, plunged to his death from the top of the stone parapet of the Washington bridge. His body was crushed against the a buoy in the East River.

### FINANCIERS MEET AT BIG EXPOSITION.

Washington, Jan. 15.—Assured by congressional leaders of funds to defray the expenses of entertaining the Pan-American financiers who will attend the commercial conferences at San Francisco during the Panama-Pacific exposition, with treasury officials, the federal reserve board and prominent American bankers, administration officials, yesterday were going ahead with plans for the meeting.

The conference will be held to discuss means of strengthening the commercial relations between the two American hemispheres. Several countries to which informal invitations were sent have notified the Washington government of their intention to be represented.

Preliminary arrangements for the conferences have been undertaken by the treasury and state departments, and President Wilson has taken an interest in the meeting.

At a conference the president outlined the details of the project to Senator Stone and Representative Flood, chairmen in the senate and the house of foreign relations committees, and received their approval of a proposed appropriation of \$50,000 to meet the cost of entertaining the visiting foreign financiers. At that time also, San Francisco was announced as the place of the proposed conference.

It is expected that practically every American republic will be represented at the meeting.

### PENSACOLA HAS A \$20,000.00 FIRE YESTERDAY.

Pensacola, Jan. 19.—The entire business section of Pensacola was threatened by fire early yesterday, when three buildings on Palafox street were entirely gutted. The loss is estimated at fifteen to twenty thousand dollars, partly covered by insurance.

The fire had its origin in Conner's pool room, and is said to have been caused by a short circuiting of electric wires. The clothing store of Joseph Coleman was burned, practically all of the stock being destroyed. The Peerless saloon was badly damaged, mostly by water.